GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:128
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002
PRICES OF AIDS CONTROL DRUGS
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of AIDS control drugs are exorbitant in the market and out of the reach of the common man ;

(b) whether some leading companies in the field have recently developed new medicines for treatment of AIDS;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether the Government have taken measures to bring down the prices of these drugs in the market ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS(SHRI S. S. DHINDSA)
(a) to (e) :-A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.128 FOR ANSWER ON THE 23RD JULY,2002.

(a) : Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order,1995 the AIDS control drugs are in the non-Scheduled category and are therefore outside price control. The prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view various factors like cost of the bulk drugs used in the formulations, cost of other input materials, R&D cost, product quality, sales promotion cost, trade commission, freight charges etc. The bulk drugs used in the formulations for AIDS control aremanufactured by employing sophisticated technologies making them costlier. However, the major manufacturers of AIDS control drugs had reduced the prices voluntarily in 2001 and the prices have remained stable thereafter.

(b)&(c) : As per available information Dinex (based on bulk drug Didanosine) and Duovir-N (based on bulk drugs Lamivudine, Zidovudine, Nevirapine.) are the new formulations for the treatment of AIDS introduced in the Indian Market by M/s Cipla Limited in the recent past.
(d) & (e): The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.